

VOTE YES ON DEMOCRATIC BUDGET

Today, the House is considering amendments to the House GOP budget resolution. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) will offer the Democratic budget substitute. Unlike the GOP budget, the Democratic budget achieves balance within seven years – whereas the GOP budget never achieves balance. Furthermore, the Democratic budget has balanced priorities – balancing fiscal responsibility with the responsibility to maintain services in areas such as education, veterans' health care and Medicaid.

All Democratic Members are urged to vote YES on the Democratic substitute. Following are talking points. Also attached is a side-by-side comparison of the House GOP budget and the Democratic substitute.

The key features of the Democratic budget are:

- **Fiscally Responsible.** The Democratic budget achieves balance within seven years, in 2012. It has a smaller deficit than the Republican budget every year and accumulates less debt.
- **Balanced Priorities.** The Democratic budget balances fiscal responsibility with the responsibility to maintain government services in vital areas such as education, veterans' health care, Medicaid, strengthening America's communities, and environmental protection.
- **Budget Enforcement to Protect Social Security.** The Democratic budget includes budget enforcement procedures to block tax or spending legislation that would borrow additional amounts from the Social Security Trust Fund surplus.
- **Protects Medicaid.** The Democratic budget rejects the up to \$20 billion in Medicaid cuts included in the Republican budget.
- **Does More for Veterans.** The Democratic budget provides \$1.6 billion more than the Republican budget for veterans' health care in 2006 and \$17 billion more over five years.
- **Helps Students.** The Democratic budget provides \$4.5 billion more than the Republican budget for education in 2006 and \$41 billion more over five years.
- **Supports America's Communities and Families.** The Democratic budget provides \$2 billion more than the Republican budget for community and regional development in 2006 and \$9 billion more over five years.

See the side-by-side comparison of the House GOP budget and the Democratic substitute that is attached.



Office of the House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, March 17, 2005

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